



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Camp Whittle Fuels Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Fawnskin, CA; Section 3, T02N, R01W, SBBM	COUNTY	San Bernardino County
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is located on the Camp Whittle YMCA property in Fawnskin, CA. The project is in a mixed conifer forest and chaparral community in the San Bernardino mountains. Jeffrey pine, white fir, sugar pine and black oak are the main tree species. The dominant shrub species include manzanita, white thorn and rabbit brush. Elevation is around 7,000 feet and the topography is relatively flat (<10% slope). The project is approximately 144 acres. This project will help reduce wildfire risk to the camp and nearby homes by reducing the hazardous fuels and improving forest health.

This project will encompass most of the camp's property and will consist of a combination of treatments which may include: masticating brush ground cover to create a mosaic of islands of vegetation of various natural appearing shapes and sizes; thinning trees under 12 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) to an average spacing of 20 feet between tree trunks; and pruning residual trees to a height of eight feet or half their height, whichever is less. All vegetation within the drip-line of residual trees will be removed using masticators or chainsaws. Dead or dying trees will be felled. Bark beetle infested wood will either be chipped or covered onsite with plastic. Vegetation that is cut using chainsaws will be chipped onsite and deposited back onto the project site or cut and stacked for firewood use at the Camp.

No new roads will be constructed. Work will be accomplished using CAL FIRE crews or contractors. This project is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2019. Best management practices, including erosion control measures, and project design features have been incorporated into the project and significant adverse impacts to resources will be non-existent. The project will be ongoing until all areas are treated and will include maintenance entries.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 is described as a "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes." This project as proposed, consists of mastication, chipping, thinning, and crew work and does not remove healthy, mature, or scenic trees. These activities are best described as minor in scope.

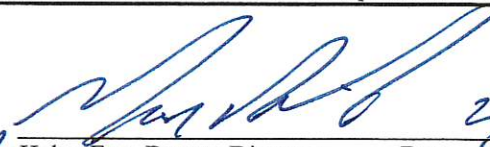
Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impacts would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's BDU Headquarters in San Bernardino.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


for Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 2/6/19
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection